

Attorney Docket No.: SCEP 22.661 (100809-00338)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor : Masaharu Sakai
Serial No. : 10/587,406
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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

S I R:

In order to comply with discretionary regulations 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98, attached hereto is a copy of Form PTO-1449 and copies of the non-US Documents (if any) listed thereon. These documents contain information which the Examiner may consider to be important in deciding whether to issue a patent in the instant application.

Also attached is a Notification of Reason(s) for Refusal dated May 13, 2008 for corresponding Japanese Patent Application No. 2006-512929. The Notification of Reason(s) for Refusal cites four documents. Two of the documents, JP 2002-287950 and JP 2003-230080 were cited in an IDS filed on July 26, 2006.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR 1.56 as an Examiner might consider any cited document important in deciding whether to allow the application to issue as a patent, but the citation of each document is not to be construed

as an admission that such document is necessarily relevant or prior art. No representation is intended that the cited documents represent the results of a complete search, and it is anticipated that the Examiner in the normal course of examination, will make an independent search and will determine the best prior art consistent with 37 CFR 1.104 (a), and in the course of such search will review for relevance every document cited on the attached form even if not initialed.

As this statement is being filed prior to issuance of a first Office Action, no fee is due.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Early and favorable consideration is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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